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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Lt. Governor Kinder Urges Final Passage of House Bill 681**

*Bill would require certain political vacancies to be filled by special elections*

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today urged legislators in the Missouri Senate to pass House Bill 681.

“Today, I urge my colleagues in the Missouri Senate to pass this important piece of legislation so that in the case of a political vacancy, Missourians would have the final say on who they want representing them,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “Following the controversy of Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s appointment to Illinois’ U.S. Senate seat, we are taking steps to ensure that Missouri voters are the ultimate arbiter for vacant political offices.”

Currently, the office of United States Senator and most statewide offices may be filled by a gubernatorial appointment when there is a vacancy. This act would require special elections to be held for vacancies in the offices of United States Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and State Treasurer.

The legislation is sponsored by Rep. Jason Smith.

“I appreciate Lt. Governor Kinder’s support of HB 681, which would end the practice of a governor hand-picking a political ally to fill a vacant elected office,” said Rep. Smith. “This bill would prevent the fiasco in Illinois created by former Governor Blagojevich and Missouri doesn’t need a repeat of that embarrassing political circus.”

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